14. *Formula for administration of Castor Oil*.—M. RIGHINI has directed much consideration to the devising of a formula for prescribing castor oil, and the following form, in which the purgative properties are not in the least diminished, he states to be free from the usual inconveniences of a dose of this medicine:—Take of finely powdered gum Arabic, ℥ii; pure water, ℥iii; make a mucilage with a small quantity of the water, and then add of castor oil ℥i; mix carefully, and afterwards pour in, while agitating the mixture, the rest of the water; finally add, with constant agitation, the filtered juice of one orange, and one ounce of simple syrup. —*Neligan's Report in Dublin Quarterly Journal*, May, 1846, from *Journ. de Chemie Med.*, Jan. 1846.

15. *Curragheen Moss*.—Dr. FRANK, of Wolfenbuettel, employs a compound powder of Irish moss as an article of diet for phthical patients, and for children affected with *tabes mesenterica*. It is prepared as follows, and has a most agreeable taste:—Take of Carragheen moss, cleaned, ℥ss; spring-water, ℥xvi; boil down to one-half; strain with expression; and add to the strained liquor, white sugar, ℥iv; gum Arabic, in powder, ℥i; and powdered orris-root, ℥ss; heat to dryness with a gentle temperature, stirring constantly, so as to obtain a pulverulent mass, to which three ounces of arrowroot are to be added with trituration. A jelly is prepared with this powder, by rubbing up a teaspoonful of it with a little cold water, and then pouring a cupful of boiling water on it.—*Ibid.*, from *Ibid.*, Sept. 1845.

16. *Iron*.—The combinations of this metal with the vegetable acids have been much employed in medicine of late years, and many practitioners prefer them to the older preparations—the sulphate and muriate. BOUCHARDAT has recently laid down the two following propositions with reference to the forms in which iron should be prescribed. 1st. That it should be either in the state of protoxide or in that of the pure metal, which is converted in the stomach into a salt of the protoxide; and 2d, that the protoxide should be united to carbonic, or to some other organic acid which is capable of being assimilated. In compliance with these propositions, the best preparations of iron are, amongst the insoluble, iron reduced by hydrogen and the carbonate of the protoxide; and amongst the soluble compounds, the lactate and citrate of the protoxide. The three latter are at present very generally prescribed in this country, and consequently ordinarily to be met with in apothecaries' shops; but the use of the former is as yet confined to the Continent, where it is held in high esteem. The employment in medicine of iron reduced to the state of minute division, by means of hydrogen, is due to the observations of M.M. Quevenne and Miquelard. To obtain it, a certain quantity of black oxide of iron (*Æthiops martis*) is introduced into a tube of porcelain, which is heated to redness; and a current of hydrogen gas is then passed over it until it is reduced, which ordinarily occurs in from seven to eight hours. The chief circumstance to be attended to, during the operation, is the state of the temperature. If it be not sufficiently high, the reduction does not take place; and if it be too high, the iron is reduced, but is agglutinated into ductile plates. For preparing it on the large scale, a metal water-pipe is employed, and the oxide is placed on numerous small shelves made of sheet iron and supported on small iron bars. When properly prepared, *reduced iron* (*fer réduit*) is in the form of a fine light powder, of a bright grayish slate-colour, in very minute division, and free from any trace of sulphur. The advantages which iron in this state possesses as a therapeutic agent are, first, that it is readily acted on by the weak acids—the lactic and muriatic, which are ordinarily present in the gastric juice during digestion; and second, that it is free from the inky taste which the preparations of iron possess in a degree proportioned to their solubility. The dose of it is from one to ten grains; it may be given in the form of pill or of bolus. The French physicians usually prescribe it made into pastilles with chocolate.—*Ibid.*, from *Annuaire de Thérap.*, 1846.

17. *Senna*.—An interesting account of the natural history of this valuable medical plant has been recently published by M. LANDERER of Athens. It is chiefly indigenous in Ethiopia, Arabia Felix, Abyssinia, Nubia, and Sennaar. The Arab